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**Statement of Thomas P. Contrades  
Kauai Member-Hawaiian Homes Commission**

**Regarding Federal Reconciliation Efforts  
Pursuant to P.L. 103-150  
The Apology Resolution**

**Aloha distinguished guests. Today I come before you as an Hawaiian who represents no one nor any group. I am here to speak only for myself and to share with you my own personal thoughts and feelings. As the child of an Hawaiian father and Portuguese mother, I grew up in two different worlds. I spent many hours with my tutu wahine and my many cousins but I also was educated in private Catholic schools where very little of my Hawaiian culture was taught. Much of what I now know, in fact, came to me late in my adult life. And, I continue to learn and grow every day.**

**Today, I would like to address two issues that have become very important to me. The first is the issue of blood quantum. Please allow us Hawaiians to determine our own definition of the term "Native Hawaiian". The issue of blood quantum is fracturing our people and we desperately need to heal this fracture so that we may be one people again.**

**The second issue concerns housing. As a member of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, I have seen first hand the problems Hawaiians face in the area of housing. While providing the Department of Hawaiian Homes Lands with thousands of acres of land, the Federal Government has not provided much financial support to develop these lands. More must be done so that the DHHL has more ability to deliver affordable homes to the Hawaiian people.**

**I know others will bring forward more of their own thoughts and ideas. Please listen carefully to everyone and understand that our needs are great and our pleas are sincere.**

**Mahalo for this opportunity to be here today.**

**Aloha.**